

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Dalton B. Floyd, Jr., Chairman, and Members, Commission on Higher Education

From: Dr. Vermelle J. Johnson, Chairman, and Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Consideration of Request for Initial License to Recruit in South Carolina

**Virginia College – Technical, Pelham AL
Occupational Associate Degrees in:
Automotive Collision/Refinishing with Industry Management
Automotive/Light Diesel with Industry Management**

Summary

Virginia College Technical (VC Tech) <http://www.vctechnical.com> requests approval of an initial license to recruit students into programs leading to Occupational Associate Degrees (OAD) offered at its branch in Pelham, Alabama.

Virginia College was founded by the Atlantis Group, Inc., and began operations in Roanoke, Virginia, in September 1983; it was purchased by Education Corporation of America in mid-1999. Virginia College, LLC, is an Alabama Limited Liability Company organized on February 23, 1999. Education Corporation of Alabama, Inc., (ECA), is an Alabama corporation incorporated on February 11, 1999, and is the sole member of Virginia College. ECA is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Education Corporation of America, Inc., (EC America) a Delaware corporation incorporated on March 11, 1999. Virginia College operates a private career college with campuses located in Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, and Pelham, Alabama; Jackson, Mississippi; Austin, Texas; and Pensacola, Florida. Virginia College provides career training for computer technology, interior design, medical and business professions, automotive and welding, and the culinary arts.

In 2001 the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology (ACICS) reaccredited the Birmingham main campus for seven years. VC Tech offers programs leading to the OAD under authority granted on June 14, 2002, by the Alabama State Board of Education. VC Tech at Pelham began offering its programs in October 2002, and ACICS recognized the Pelham branch in November 2002. ACICS will conduct a site visit to the Pelham branch in Fall 2005.

The Pelham branch of VC Tech is located 11 miles south of the main campus in Birmingham on a 9.88 acre campus and is housed in 69,000 square feet of leased space in a building renovated for the college. The facilities include six lecture classrooms; five automotive lift-bay labs; four automotive flat-bay labs; 25 stations in the welding lab; four faculty rooms; student and staff lounges; 19 administrative offices; and library space. The lecture, welding, and automotive classrooms and labs are equipped with instructional equipment that, as much as possible, replicate the equipment that the student will use on the job.

The institution has designed its programs to provide the student with vocational career training. The programs are not designed to transfer to other institutions. The programs are delivered in the traditional in-residence format. VC Tech officials project enrolling three to eight students from South Carolina into each program in the first year of recruiting in South Carolina.

For admission into its programs, VC Tech requires that applicants possess a high school diploma, equivalency, or GED. It allows transfer credit for courses in which the student earned a grade of “B” or higher from accredited institutions not to exceed 40 percent of the program. Transfer course work must have been completed within the past five years. Students must earn a grade of “C” or higher in each VC Tech course. Tuition for each program leading to the OAD is \$6,500 per quarter. The following table shows a description of each program.

Program	Program Description	Length of Program
Automotive Collision/Refinishing with Industry Management	Students learn skills in structural and non-structural repairs, painting and refinishing procedures, and mechanical and electrical repairs. Students are also taught how to write and work from a collision/refinishing estimate and about personal and industry safety. The Industry Management minor provides students with a foundation in business management, customer services, computer, communication, and accounting skills.	106 Quarter Credit Hours 1,936 Clock Hours (8.3 hours per day) 12 Months
Automotive/Light Diesel with Industry Management	Students learn skills in engine, drive train and chassis diagnostics, electrical and computer-controlled systems analysis, and repair for automotive and light duty diesel applications. Students are also taught about environmental issues and personal and industry safety. The Industry Management minor provides students with a foundation in business management, customer services, computer, communication, and accounting skills.	107 Quarter Credit Hours 1,936 Clock Hours (8.3 hours per day) 12 Months

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that employment of automotive body repairers is expected to increase from 10 to 20 percent through the year 2010. Demand for qualified body repairers will increase as the number of motor vehicles in operation continues to grow in line with the population of the nation.

Virginia College Technical Occupational Associate Degree Program Curricula

Courses	Auto Collision/ Refinishing w/Industry Management	Auto/Light Diesel w/Industry Management
ALD 101 & 102 Engine Management I & II		26
ALD 103 Drive Trains		13
ALD 104 Chassis		12
ALD 105 & 106 Light Diesel I & II		25
CRT 101 & 102 Collision I & II	26	
CRT 103 & 104 Refinishing I & II	25	
CRT 105 & 106 Advanced Collision Repair I & II	24	
ENG 101 English Composition I	4	4
IM 110 Industry Management	15	15
MTH 131 General College Mathematics	4	4
PSY 101 Introduction to Psychology	4	4
SPH 106 Effective Speaking	4	4
Totals	106	107

Recommendation

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve an initial licensure for five years to Virginia College Technical to recruit residents of South Carolina into its branch campus in Pelham, Alabama into the programs leading to the Occupational Associate Degree in Automotive Collision/Refinishing with Industry Management and in Automotive/Light Diesel with Industry Management.